

**ACT 157**  
**(H.868 2016)**

Sec. H.13. VERMONT EMPLOYMENT GROWTH INCENTIVE; POLICY REVIEW

(a) The Vermont Economic Progress Council shall review the following policy questions relating to the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program:

(1) whether the enhanced incentives available under the program are appropriate and necessary, including:

(A) an analysis of the growth in the environmental technology sector in Vermont as defined in the enhanced incentive for environmental technology business and whether growth in this sector obviates the need for the current enhancement; and

(B) whether the State should forgo additional net fiscal benefit under the enhancements and whether the policy objectives of the enhancements are met;

(2) whether and how to include a mechanism in the Program for equity investments in incentive recipients;

(3) whether and under what circumstances the Department of Taxes should have, and should exercise, the authority to recapture the value of incentives paid to a business that is subsequently sold or relocated out of the State, or that eliminates qualifying jobs after receiving an incentive;

(4) how to most effectively ensure, through the application and award process, that recipients of VEGI incentives are in compliance with all federal and State water quality and air quality laws and regulations;

(5) the size, industry, and profile of the businesses that historically have experienced, and are forecast to experience, the most growth in Vermont, and whether the Program should be more targeted to these businesses;

(6) changes to the Program to ensure incentives will benefit the creation and growth of more small businesses;

(7) whether additional applicant and program data reporting and transparency could be accomplished without damage to applicant businesses; and

(8) quantifiable standards for the type, quality, and value of employee benefits that an applicant must offer in order for a new job to count as a "qualifying job" for purposes of the Vermont Employment Growth Incentive Program.

(b) The Council shall have the authority to designate one or more policy study subcommittees to perform its work pursuant to this section, and shall collaborate with, and have the authority to request data, technical support, and other necessary assistance from, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Departments of Labor and of Taxes.

(c) On or before January 15, 2017, the Council shall report its findings, conclusions, recommendations, and supporting data for legislative action to the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Ways and Means, and on Appropriations, and to the Senate Committees on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs, on Finance, and on Appropriations.